VSNL's Internet Service In Metros

2352. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subscribers of VSNL's Internet service in all metros;

(b) whether the rate of internet subscribers of VSNL has decreased in the past years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The number of subscribers of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited's (VSNL's) Internet service in all metros as on 30th June, 2002, are as follows:

Location	Dial Up Customers	Leased Line Customers
Mumbai	222762	426
New Delhi	92998	286
Kolkata	71882	128
Chennai	91314	228

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Assam

2353.SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths presently running in different districts of Assam;

(b) the number of booths proposed to be installed during 2002-2003;

(c) the details of the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the steps taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, the telecom district-wise information is given below:—

No. of STD/ISD and local PCOs working in Assam as on 30-06-2002

S.No.	Name of the Telecom District	STD/ISD/PCOs	Local PCOs
1.	Kamrup	4054	23
2.	Dibrugarh	1181	22
3.	Silchar	1562	41
4.	Jorhat	910	80
5.	Bongaigaon	1224	107
6.	Tezpur	1542	10
7.	Nagaon	964	94

(b) to (d) According to the present policy PCOs are allotted to all the eligible applicants as per their registration subject to the technical feasibility.The number of booths to be installed during 2002-03 depends on the availability of eligible applicants and technical feasibility. No separate funds are allocated for this purpose and the STD/ISD/PCOs are available on demand in Assam.

Requirement of witness for opening of Savings Account

2354. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATIONTECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether for opening of a Savings Account in Post Office, a witness is required who already holds an account in the same branch;

(b) if so, whether for opening of another account by the same person in the same branch the usual formality is again required;

(c) if so, whether such formality is not required in the Nationalised banks; and